



Meeting Notes Community Advisory Council Meeting #1

Randall Road Improvements Study County Line Road to Ackman Road McHenry County

June 25, 2007

This meeting was the first presentation of the Randall Road Improvements Study to the membership of the Community Advisory Council. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the McHenry County study and discuss the purpose and role of the council. The meeting took place at 9 a.m. at the McHenry County Government Center Administration Building in Conference Room B. The agenda for the meeting included the following:

- Introductions
- Project Description
- Context Sensitive Solutions/Stakeholder Involvement Plan
- Community Advisory Council (CAC) Role/Process
- Focus for CAC Meeting #2

Following are highlights of the main topics discussed at the meeting.

I. Introductions

At the meeting there was representation from the McHenry County Division of Transportation, McHenry County Planning Department, Illinois Department of Transportation Bureau of Local Roads and Streets, City of Crystal Lake, Village of Algonquin, Village of Lake in the Hills, McHenry County Board, McHenry County Defenders, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation, Baxter and Woodman Consulting Engineers, and HDR. A copy of the sign-in sheet is an attachment to this document.

II. Project Description

The Randall Road Improvements Study includes Randall Road from County Line Road to Ackman Road. Randall Road is designated as a Strategic Regional Arterial (SRA) (since the early 1990s) and is a primary north-south arterial in southern McHenry County that many residents use for Tollway access through Kane County (McHenry County does not have direct Tollway access within the borders of the County). The next major north-south arterials are state routes, which are approximately 5 miles to the west (IL 47) and 3 miles to the east (IL 31). Interstate 90 is located approximately 5 miles south of County Line Road. The existing land use along the corridor is primarily residential to the north of Miller Road and commercial to the south of Miller Road. Over the last five years there has been a lot of new development along the

corridor. Randall Road is primarily a four-lane arterial with turning lanes provided along segments of the corridor. Signalized intersections are located at County Line Road, Harnish Drive, Bunker Hill Drive/Huntington Drive, Algonquin Road, Acorn Lane/Polaris Drive, Miller Road and Ackman Road.

McHenry County is completing the Phase I study for Rakow Road from Ackman Road to Illinois Route 31. The Randall Road Improvements to the north will tie into the Rakow Road improvements which include the upgrade of Ackman Road. Several developments are being constructed near the southern terminus of the Randall Road Study. Some of these developments are required to make improvements along Randall Road. The improvements include widening Randall Road from 4 lanes to 6 lanes and the addition of turning lanes as warranted. Although County Line Road is the southern terminus, the Randall Road improvements to the south will tie into the developers' improvements that may extend north of County Line Road.

The goal of the Randall Road Improvements Study is to develop a preferred alternative that improves operational flow along Randall Road and at intersections and one that is supported by the communities; while minimizing environmental impacts. At this time, there is no known controversy surrounding the project and significant impacts are not anticipated. The Phase I Study will be processed as a Categorical Exclusion with a Project Development Report. There are several issues that the project team is aware of at this early stage in the project that will be evaluated in the study. The issues include potential omission areas at the northern and southern limits of the project, existing detention, residential neighborhoods, publicly owned parkland including Ken Carpenter Park and Richard Taylor Park, wetlands, floodplain, and other sensitive lands.

The project scope currently includes the following elements:

- Data Collection
- Aerial and Contour Mapping Coordination
- Traffic Operations and Safety Analyses
- Environmental Analyses
- Alternative Analyses
- Preliminary Design of the Preferred Alternative
- Drainage Analysis
- Design and Environmental Documentation
- Access Management Plan
- Incident Management Plan
- Stakeholder Involvement and Coordination
- Funding Investigation

Over the past couple months the project team (McHenry County, HDR, Baxter and Woodman Consulting Engineers, SCI Engineering, RH Anderson and Associates, and Wilbur Smith Associates) has been working on data collection, traffic analysis, and public involvement activities. The team has coordinated with agencies, obtained aerial mapping, initiated development of the Geographical Information System database, conducted traffic counts, requested information from various stakeholders, initiated development of a project website and first newsletter, and begun preparations for stakeholder meetings including Community Advisory Council Meetings and the first Public Meeting.

III. Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)/Stakeholder Involvement Plan

The approximately two-year long study will include an expanded Public Involvement Program that will guide the public/agencies through the entire Phase I process. The expanded Public Involvement Program is based on the principles of CSS which includes the employment of early, continuous, and meaningful involvement of the public and all stakeholders throughout the project development process. CSS is a philosophy wherein safe transportation solutions are designed in harmony with the community. CSS is not a separate set of processes or standards. Rather it is a philosophy that guides Engineers and Planners in all phases of the project development process, from scoping through design, construction and maintenance. Although the study is not scoped for the formal Illinois Department of Transportation or Federal Highway Administration CSS Process, the study was scoped with an expanded Public Involvement Program approach based on CSS principles. The Randall Road Improvements Study approach considers the total context within which a transportation project will exist. The public and stakeholder involvement program for the Randall Road Improvements Study includes a Community Advisory Council (with 12 scheduled meetings), local agency and community group meetings (as needed), a website, newsletters, two Public Meetings, and a Public Hearing.

The Randall Road Improvements Study Stakeholder Involvement Plan was distributed to attendees and discussed. Major components of the plan include Plan Purpose and Introduction, Program Goals and Objectives, Project Study Group, Stakeholders Identification, Tentative Ground Rules/Guidelines, and Schedule of Involvement. As the project progresses the Stakeholder Involvement Plan will be updated as necessary.

IV. Community Advisory Council (CAC) Role/Process

The council was formed to facilitate communication among stakeholders and to help in considering the total context within which this project will exist including issues, perspectives, and visions of stakeholders. The CAC membership was developed to include a cross section of stakeholders. The membership list will be adjusted as necessary. The purpose of the Randall Road Improvements Study CAC is to be a liaison between the public and McHenry County to help develop a Preferred Alternative that addresses the communities' needs. Tasks for the CAC will include assisting the project study group in identifying the Purpose and Need for the project, discussing the alternative evaluation criteria, reviewing design requirements, brainstorming alternatives, and reviewing the alternative evaluation results (including fatal flaw and comparative analysis results).

The Project Study Group will work with the CAC (soliciting input and developing general consensus) through each major step in the study process. The CAC will not be expected to make design decisions, rather they will be advisors to the project study group to ensure all the issues are known and the appropriate alternative is developed. It was stressed that no design work has been performed yet, rather the design will be developed concurrently as the CAC moves through its process. At the end of the study, CAC members, the public, and agencies should have an understanding of the project issues and the development of the Preferred Alternative and thus will have ownership and support for the Preferred Alternative.

The vision of McHenry County does not include presentations at each CAC meeting; rather regular interaction and involvement of the council is anticipated throughout the entire project. Membership representation is important to the project; stakeholder involvement is directly

related to the success of the project in reaching general consensus on a preferred alternative and ensuring all issues are evaluated. We understand the CAC is a time commitment, if you are unable to attend, please try to send an alternate. The 12 meeting dates and topics were set up in advance to promote full attendance. CAC Meeting Expectations and Rules/Guidelines were also developed to aid in keeping meetings focused. The rules/guidelines are included in the Stakeholder Involvement Plan and will be available at each meeting for reference. Meeting agendas will be sent in advance.

The CAC meetings will be flexible to adjust to the vision of the CAC. If there is membership consensus that a certain topic is not a major issue to the project, the topic can be skipped. If there is an issue that needs additional focus, a meeting can be added to the schedule or topics rearranged to allow for the analysis of the issue. Meetings can also be combined based on participation or shifts in project focus.

The project schedule was presented. Highlights of the schedule include a Public Meeting on July 25, 2007, a Public Meeting in the spring of 2008, a Public Hearing in the winter of 2008, and completion of the Phase I study report in spring of 2009. The schedule will be posted on the website and in the upcoming newsletter.

The first project newsletter will be distributed before the first Public Meeting to all identified stakeholders. The newsletter will explain the Randall Road Improvements Study, Phase I process, and Public Involvement Program, as well as include the study schedule. Any ideas for articles are appreciated. Ideas should be submitted by Friday, June 29, 2007 for inclusion in the first newsletter or the project website.

The project website will be online before the first Public Meeting. The web address will be www.RandallRoad.info. The intent of the website is to be another tool available to stakeholders to answer questions and obtain project information. Several features of the website include tabs named Get Involved, Information Center, and FAQs. Within the Get Involved tab, project contact information will be provided and comment forms can be obtained and submitted. The Information Center will provide maps, reports, and other project materials available for viewing and download. FAQs stand for frequently asked questions. Any input from the CAC membership on FAQs is appreciated. The website will be updated regularly throughout the project. If your affiliation would like to post a link to the website, please let McHenry County know.

V. Focus for CAC Meeting #2

Copies of the Context Audit and a Study Area Map were distributed to CAC membership. The Community Context Audit form is intended to be a guide to identify various community characteristics that make each transportation project location unique to its residents, its businesses and the public in general. This information will help to define the purpose and need of the proposed transportation improvements based upon community goals and local plans for future development. Questions on the audit form are divided into four categories: Community Characteristics and Land Use, Infrastructure Assessment, Economic Development, and Community Planning. It is requested that completed Context Audit forms be returned to Wally Dittrich of McHenry County Division of Transportation by Monday, July 2, 2007, if possible. Contact information is provided on the last page of the form. It is encouraged to have

stakeholders outside of the CAC membership complete the Context Audit form. Additional copies are available for this purpose. The completed forms will be summarized and presented at the second CAC Meeting. Several CAC representatives requested electronic copies of the Context Audit and Study Area Map

The focus of the second CAC Meeting will be on the Context Audit results (homework from CAC Meeting #1) and preparations for Public Meeting #1.

The first Public Meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2007 between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Crystal Lake South High School in Crystal Lake, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting will be to present the project and solicit information on the needs of the project. The Public Meeting will be in an open house format. Exhibit boards and project staff will be available to answer questions. A summary of the Context Audit will be presented on an exhibit board at the meeting.

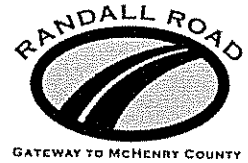
IV. Conclusion

At the conclusion of the meeting, the floor opened up for questions and comments. There was also a request made for suggestions on locations for future CAC Meetings including the second meeting that is scheduled for July 10, 2007.

One question was raised as to if traffic information would be available at the first Public Meeting. The response was that limited information would be made available. Existing traffic volumes will be displayed; however, traffic projections will not be available. The purpose of the first Public Meeting is to identify the scope and purpose for the project. The intent of using an expanded Public Involvement Program with a CSS approach is to solicit stakeholder input early in the study process before decisions are made and the scope is fully formed for the project.



Randall Road (FAU 0009) Improvements Study



Sign-in Sheet

Meeting Purpose: Community Advisory Council Meeting #1
Meeting Date: June 25, 2007
Meeting Time: 9:00 AM
Location: McHenry County Government Center, Administration Building, Conference Room B

List of Attendees

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